

UNANIMOUS CONSENT
AGREEMENT—S. 1215

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. 1215, the Burma sanctions bill; that there then be 60 minutes of debate equally divided under the control of myself and the Democratic leader or his designee; further, that no amendments be in order other than a substitute amendment and a technical amendment to that substitute. I ask unanimous consent that following the debate time and the disposition of the above amendments, the bill be read a third time and the Senate proceed to a vote on the passage of the bill, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DOMENICI. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. DOMENICI. I will have none. But when the matters that have just been agreed upon have been completed, we will then have another amendment on the Energy bill. It will be offered by the distinguished Democratic Senator from Florida with reference to an inventory of the Outer Continental Shelf assets, inventory that is provided for in the bill. He will move that be taken out. That will be debated tonight and voted on tomorrow.

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object, the two leaders have indicated that we would have more debate on that in the morning, however, on the offshore oil inventory. I don't know what time they are going to schedule a vote, but I think it will be sometime in the morning and that will be worked out later tonight.

Mr. DOMENICI. I would like to comment, before we proceed, just a further 30 seconds?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. DOMENICI. We have been working very hard to get a complete list—I think we are very close—of amendments we can agree to and put at the desk. As everybody knows, a lot is riding on this Energy bill: a full ethanol package; soon there will be the renewables that many are relying on in this country which have extenders that are required that are part of the tax amendments that are going to go on this bill. Those are providing for the existing—continuation of the renewables in the area of wind and Sun and others. If we do not get the bill moving, none of that moves along.

So I do ask all Senators who have amendments to concur that they can write them up, get them in, get them on this list so we know where we are and when we might look for daylight on this bill. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Madam President, I say to the distinguished Senator from New Mexico, the chairman of the com-

mittee, we have a list on our side. We are now waiting. Tentative lists have been exchanged by the two sides. As far as we are concerned, we are ready at any time to enter into that agreement. We do have a finite list of amendments. As soon as we get a finite list of amendments from the majority, a unanimous consent agreement could go forward at that time.

Mr. DOMENICI. Madam President, I thank the distinguished Senator for his cooperation. That is a true statement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the unanimous consent request of the assistant Republican leader? Without objection, it is so ordered.

BURMESE FREEDOM AND
DEMOCRACY ACT OF 2003

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1215) to sanction the ruling Burmese military junta, to strengthen Burma's democratic forces and support and recognize the National League of Democracy as the legitimate representative of the Burmese people, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant Republican leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, the situation in Burma is indeed dire and requires our immediate response. We will make that response within the next hour.

S. 1215, which is now the pending business in the Senate, has 56 cosponsors. I particularly want to thank Senator FEINSTEIN, who will be speaking on this measure, and Senator MCCAIN, who have had a particular interest in this subject for quite some time.

Until yesterday, Aung San Suu Kyi and other democracy activists have been held incommunicado by the repressive State Peace and Development Council, SPDC, following an ambush on her convoy several hundred kilometers north of Rangoon. Scores are feared murdered and injured in this blatant assault on democracy in Burma.

In the 11th hour of his trip to Rangoon, the SPDC finally allowed U.N. Special Envoy Razali Ismail a 15-minute meeting with Suu Kyi. We are all relieved that his initial statements indicate that she is alive and unharmed, but the fate of other activists arrested remains unknown.

But simply seeing is not freeing. Razali's meeting with Suu Kyi was not a private one and she remains under the total control of SPDC thugs. Her continued silence in the wake of this bloodshed could not be more deafening, nor—despite Razali's brief visit—her predicament more pressing.

Horrific details of the attack continue to emerge and heighten the need for a swift and decisive response to the SPDC's brutality.

According to Monday's front-page article in the Washington Post, in the "pitch dark amid the rice paddies" thugs posing as Buddhist monks stopped Suu Kyi's car. Soon after, a

crowd "set upon her convey, attacking the entourage with wooden clubs and bamboo spikes. . . . Several hundred more assailants ambushed the motorcade from the rear."

This is no simple act of harassment or intimidation. It was an act of terrorism against innocent civilians who simply believe in democracy and the rule of law in Burma.

The free world and free press have been quick to condemn the SPDC. But strong words from foreign capitals must be matched by stronger actions.

Last week, I introduced the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003, along with Senators FEINSTEIN and MCCAIN. As I indicated earlier, we now have 56 cosponsors. I ask unanimous consent that the list be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1215 COSPONSORS

Akaka, Alexander, Allard, Allen, Baucus, Bennett, Biden, Bingaman, Boxer, Breaux, Brownback, Bunning, Burns, Chambliss, Clinton, Coleman, Collins, Corzine, Daschle, Dayton, Dole, Domenici, Dorgan, Durbin, Edwards, Feingold, Feinstein, Frist, and Grassley.

Hagel, Harkin, Hutchison, Jeffords, Kennedy, Kerry, Kyl, Lautenberg, Leahy, Levin, Lieberman, Lugar, McCain, Mikulski, Murkowski, Murray, Nelson, Ben (Nebraska), Reid, Rockefeller, Santorum, Sarbanes, Schumer, Smith, Specter, Stabenow, Voinovich, and Wyden.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, this bill, among other sanctions, imposes a ban on imports from Burma.

I am pleased that many of my colleagues—including the majority and minority leaders of the Senate and the chairmen and ranking members of the Senate Foreign Relations and Finance Committees—are cosponsors of this important legislation.

Let me share with my colleagues some of the feedback we have gotten from around the country on the act:

An editorial in today's Los Angeles Times stated:

[Burma's] trading partners, other countries in the region and aid givers like Japan need to get tougher by imposing sanctions and aid suspensions to push the country toward democracy; that's the outcome Myanmar's citizens show they favor every time they get the chance.

By the way, they haven't gotten a chance since 1990.

A Washington Post editorial yesterday advised that because Burmese dictators "control the nation's economy, an import ban would affect those most responsible for Burma's repression, and senators supportive of democracy in Asia should vote for the bill without conditions or expiration dates."

Deputy Secretary of State Rich Armitage recently wrote:

. . . we support the goal and intent of this legislation and agree on the need for many similar measures. . . . We are also considering an import ban, as proposed in your legislation.

A June 6 editorial in the Washington Post suggested that: